

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /127 W

----- 095792

R 232058Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5967

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS USUN 0664

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, AORG, EAID, UN

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING - FEBRUARY 17

1. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS BEFORE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING ON FEBRUARY 17.

2. UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW EMPHASIZED THE RECORD OF HIS AGENCY IN ADAPTING ITS PROGRAM TO CHANGING INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, MOST RECENTLY TOWARD THE REALIZATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE DESCRIBED THE MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF THE UN AS MAKING AN OBJECTIVE STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS FACING MANKIND, FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS AMONG STATES, AND FINALLY DRAWING UP ACTION PROGRAMS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. WHILE PRAISING THE GENERAL ADAPTABILITY OF THE UN SYSTEM, HE SAID THAT ITS CHIEF WEAKNESS IS THAT IT IS NOT YET CAPABLE OF ACTING AS A SYSTEM. M'BOW SUGGESTED THAT THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE BE GUIDED BY THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

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DER, TO INCREASE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE VARIOUS AGEN-

CIES, AND TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE SYSTEM. HE CALLED FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN ECOSOC OPERATIONS AND SUGGESTED BOTH SHORTER, MORE FOCUSED MEETINGS AND GREATER PARTICIPATION BY AGENCIES IN ITS DECISION FORMULATION (E.G. INTERAGENCY RESEARCH TEAMS, ETC.). M'BOW EMPHASIZED THE PROBLEM OF RESOURCES AND CRITICIZED THE TENDENCY OF ASSIGNING TASKS TO THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WITHOUT CONSIDERING THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. WHILE GENERALLY SUPPORTING REGIONAL ACTIVITIES, HE ARGUED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. M'BOW CRITICIZED THE PROLIFERATION OF UN INSTITUTIONS AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE KEY TO THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE UN SYSTEM IN THE LAST ANALYSIS LAY IN THE ACTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES. (MISSION POUCHING FULL TEXT OF M'BOW STATEMENT TO US DEL UNESCO AND DEPARTMENT.)

3. IMF MANAGING DIRECTOR WITTEVEEN DESCRIBED HIS INSTITUTION AS AN EFFECTIVE FORUM OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND THE RECONCILIATION OF DIVERGENT INTERESTS, AS EVIDENCED MOST RECENTLY BY THE JAMAICA AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF IMF'S OPERATIONS INCLUDED WELL-PREPARED PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS IN A COMPACT FORUM, STAFFING BASED ON TECHNICAL COMPETENCE RATHER THAN GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION, CLOSE AND CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES AND DIRECT STAFF PARTICIPATION IN DELIVERATIONS. WITTEVEEN STRONGLY ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLE OF OPERATIONS DECENTRALIZATION, CALLED FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN INTERNATIONAL DELIBERATIONS, DEFENDED IMF'S WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM, EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG UN INSTITUTIONS, AND IN GENERAL OPPOSED THE TENDENCY TO ESTABLISH NEW INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN TAP RESOURCES ALREADY AVAILABLE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE, WITTEVEEN SAID THAT THE USEFULNESS OF DISCUSSIONS OF MONETARY ISSUES IN FORA OTHER THAN THE IMF DEPENDED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF EXPERTISE IN THOSE FORA. HE COMMENTED THAT IF DISCUSSION IN ANOTHER FORUM LED TO CONFRONTATION, IT BECAME MORE DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT WITHIN THE IMF.

4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA (STRAUSS) SAID THAT THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE SHOULD LEAD TO GREATER EFFICIENCY, LOWER ADMINISTRATIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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COSTS AND LESS OVERLAPPING OF WORK. HE SAID THAT THESE EFFORTS SHOULD NOT INVOLVE EITHER A CHANGE IN THE CHARTER OR DIVERSION OF THE UN FROM ITS PRINCIPAL TASK OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY.

5. AUSTRALIA (HARRY) SAID THAT THE UN SHOULD PROVIDE A CATALYTIC ELEMENT WHICH WOULD REACT WITH A COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS SO AS TO GENERATE A REAL IMPROVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND ECON-

OMIC CONDITIONS. THUS, HE SAW TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AS CENTRAL TO THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORT. HARRY CALLED FOR CENTRALIZED POLICY DIRECTION WHILE MAINTAINING SPECIALIZED AREAS OF COMPETENCE, A STRENGTHENED INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION, JOINT SECRETARIAT DRAFTING OF DOCUMENTS, SHORTER AND MORE FOCUSED ECOSOC SESSIONS, AND SELECTIVE WEEDING OF THE ECOSOC SUB-GROUPS. WITH REGARD TO OTHER RECOMMENTATIONS IN THE EXPERTS REPORT, HARRY SAID THAT HE SAW MERIT IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR SEPARATE IDENTITIES BUT DOUBTED THE WISDOM OF FORMALIZING A CONSENSUS MACHINERY FOR ECOSOC. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT A COORDINATED UN SYSTEM REQUIRES MEMBER STATES TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICIES TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, REORGANIZATIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760068-0259
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760222/aaaaasve.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING - FEBRUARY 17
TAGS: EGEN, AORG, EAID, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006